

H.R. 3528. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the use of alternative dispute resolution processes in United States district courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4649. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the reports of two rules received on April 16, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4650. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on enlistment waiver trends for fiscal years 1991 through 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4651. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Empowerment Zones: Rule for Second Round Designations" received on April 16, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4652. A communication from the President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Russia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4653. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Bureau of Justice Assistance for fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-384. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Whereas, Congress, through the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR Act), mandated that the secretary of agriculture consolidate the then existing thirty-two federal milk marketing orders into no fewer than ten nor more than fourteen orders by no later than April 4, 1999; and

Whereas, the FAIR Act also authorized the secretary of agriculture to review and reform the pricing and other provisions of the consolidated orders; and

Whereas, on January 23, 1998, the secretary of agriculture issued the proposed rules for federal milk order consolidations and reforms; and

Whereas, these proposed rules included two options for pricing milk used in Class I (fluid milk products), which are noted and referred to as Option 1A and Option 1B; and

Whereas, Option 1A is similar to the present geographic price structures; however, Option 1B would reduce the minimum federal order prices in Louisiana more than \$1.00 per hundred weight; and

Whereas, while demand has been rising due to increasing population, milk production in Louisiana and the entire Southeast has de-

clined during each of the past seven years; as a result, larger quantities of milk are imported from other regions at higher cost than local milk; and

Whereas, implementation of Option 1B, even with the highest transition option, would aggravate the loss of dairy farms and local milk production; and

Whereas, such loss will be devastating to the dairy farmer, the rural communities, and the consumers: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to support, and urges and requests the secretary of agriculture to incorporate, Option 1A as the pricing procedure in all federal milk marketing orders in his final decision on consolidation and reform of these orders. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

POM-385. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania relative to Federal credit unions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-386. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRESERVE THE CURRENT FAIR HOUSING ACT

Whereas, 10 years ago the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 amended Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, to extend the principle of equal housing opportunity to people with disabilities and to families with children; and

Whereas, on February 12, 1998, the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1998 was introduced for the purpose of repealing the federal protections for people with mental retardation and other disabilities; and

Whereas, the accomplishments that have been made during the last 30 years to protect people with disabilities and families with children should be celebrated and improved upon, not weakened; Now, Therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the important civil rights protections extended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 must be preserved; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this memorial, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to Charles Canady, Chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-387. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 388

Whereas, This Commonwealth has used four telephone area codes since the 1940s; and

Whereas, A shortage of available telephone numbers in two area codes in this Commonwealth has prompted the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to create two new area codes since 1995, increasing the total number of area codes to six; and

Whereas, Anticipated shortages in the 717, 215 and 610 area codes prompted the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to institute practices that would conserve telephone numbers in these area codes and so miti-

gated the need to create additional area codes; and

Whereas, Beginning in July 1997, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission adopted orders authorizing several methods of conserving telephone numbers in the 717, 215 and 610 area codes; and

Whereas, These methods to reduce the amount of telephone numbers provided to telephone service providers in any given local exchange, to develop a transparent area code and to ration available numbers were challenged at the Federal Communications Commission; and

Whereas, The delays and denials from the Federal Communications Commission prevented the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission from implementing its conservation methods and so forced the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to act to create new area codes; and

Whereas, Due to these delays and denials, this Commonwealth faces a crisis in available telephone numbers in the 717, 215 and 610 area codes, which has forced the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to tentatively create two new area codes; and

Whereas, The creation of new area codes prior to the full implementation of conservation methods results in unnecessary inconvenience, confusion and expense to citizens in the affected areas; and

Whereas, The creation of these proposed new area codes could have been prevented or significantly delayed had the Federal Communications Commission acted expeditiously on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's conservation proposals: Therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives memorialize the Congress of the United States and the Federal Communications Commission to allow state regulatory agencies the flexibility they need to conserve available telephone numbers and so extend the useful lives of existing area codes; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-388. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 220

Whereas, the air transportation needs of the metropolitan Washington region are addressed through a finely balanced, comprehensive regional airport plan; and

Whereas, under that plan, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport each perform a separate and unique function in that regional airport plan; and

Whereas, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport functions as the local and regional airport, serving cities within a 1,250-mile radius; and

Whereas, Washington Dulles International Airport serves as the national and international airport; and

Whereas, significant local decisions about airport investment and development plans have been based on this locally and federally endorsed balance of traffic; and

Whereas, the allocation of roles to each airport under the plan has stimulated the growth and development of Washington Dulles International Airport; and

Whereas, the development of Washington Dulles International Airport has improved the quality of regional, domestic, and international air transportation for all citizens of the region; and

Whereas, the improvement in air transportation alternatives has brought to local passengers the benefits of increased competition in the form of competitive fares and a broad array of new service options between these two airports; and

Whereas, the region has also benefited from investments by many new firms in Northern Virginia that have located to this area because of the presence of a major international airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, and the strength and continued viability of competitive air service offerings at both Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport; and

Whereas, the increased business activity has produced substantial economic benefits for the region; and

Whereas, a linchpin of this balanced regional air transportation system is the rule at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport limiting flights to 1,250 miles from the airport; and

Whereas, changes to the perimeter rule would threaten air service to smaller communities within the perimeter than now enjoy convenient access to Northern Virginia by air; and

Whereas, this perimeter rule was enacted as Section 6012 of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986; and

Whereas, legislation is being considered in the United States Congress that would provide for exemptions from the perimeter rule; and

Whereas, any change in the current perimeter rule would threaten the benefits now enjoyed by citizens of the region as a result of the balance of services among the regional airports; and

Whereas, maintaining the perimeter rule is critical to the continued effectiveness of the balanced regional air transportation plan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly oppose any relaxation of, exemption from, or amendment to Section 6012 of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986 or the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; and, be it

Resolved further, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the Virginia General Assembly in this matter.

POM-389. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4032

Whereas, The people of the State of Washington are facing the impacts of the listing and proposed listings of salmon and steelhead stocks under the federal Endangered Species Act; and

Whereas, These listings represent a serious threat to the continued economic well-being of the people of the State of Washington; and

Whereas, The people of the State of Washington will fully comply with the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act within its borders and territorial waters; and

Whereas, The salmon and steelhead that spawn in the State of Washington spend most of their life cycle outside of waters controlled by the state; and

Whereas, Considerable threats to the salmon and steelhead of the State of Washington can only be addressed by the intervention of the United States Government; and

Whereas, The success of any conservation plan implemented under the federal Endan-

gered Species Act for listed salmon and steelhead runs in the State of Washington is in doubt without immediate action by the federal government;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United States Government immediately resolve the United States-Canada fishing dispute, enforce the two hundred-mile limit and the ban on high seas drift net fishing, and provide funding for salmon recovery efforts which mitigate the loss of habitat caused by the construction of hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River.

Be it resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-390. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of West Virginia; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, Television has become a medium of great importance as a source of information and entertainment to the citizens of West Virginia and the United States; and

Whereas, Cable television sometimes provides the only access to quality television signals in many areas of West Virginia; and

Whereas, Cable television services in West Virginia are not subject to effective competition; and

Whereas, Over the last ten years, despite the efforts of the Congress of the United States and the Legislature of West Virginia, the prices that consumers pay for cable television services have escalated at alarming rates, for out pacing the increase in the costs of other goods or services; and

Whereas, The enormous increases in the costs for subscribers of cable television services is a result of the absence of competition in the industry coupled with inadequate regulation; and

Whereas, It is the duty of government to intervene to protect its citizens from the pricing practices of monopolies: Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia, That this legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to address this important issue by enacting comprehensive legislation to create widespread competition within the cable television industry and until such time as competition exists, that the Congress of the United States will pass comprehensive legislation allowing the several states and local franchising authorities to have complete and unfettered power and authority to regulate the rates that cable television companies may charge to the subscribers of cable television service, including charges for any and all tiers of programming; and, be it further

Resolved, This Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to enact laws requiring cable television companies to permit consumers to select and decline individual channels that they desire to have or not to have, so that consumers are not forced to buy programming that they do not want simply to be able to have the programming that they do want; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates be hereby directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the West Virginia Delegation of the Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2676. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restructure and reform the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-174).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Togo Dennis West, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN:

S. 1965. A bill to prohibit the publication of identifying information relating to a minor for criminal sexual purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 1966. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study whether the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore should be protected as a wilderness area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SARBANES:

S. 1967. A bill to provide for mass transportation in national parks and related public lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FORD (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1968. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to implement a pilot program to improve access to the national transportation system for small communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 1969. A bill to provide health benefits for workers and their families; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 1970. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. FEINGOLD):